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Space Support in a Nutshell



COL Jeffrey C. Horne
Deputy Commander for
Operations, U.S. Army Space
and Missile Defense Command/
U.S. Army Forces Strategic
Command

By COL Jeffrey C. Horne

In order to enhance our effectiveness and relevancy to the warfighter, we must work to optimize Space operations by deploying Space operators and maximizing Space-based capabilities (ASJ Fall 2004, Vol. 3, No. 2). Space operations is a key aspect of the non-linear battlefield and must become part of the daily routine military operations, attuned to the battle rhythm. Toward that end, we have written the concept for how Space forces will support a theater commander's concept of operations and its goal is to optimize Space operations.

The need for a written concept of Space operations support to the theater has grown out of our exercise experiences and lessons learned in OPERATIONS IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM, and from our coordination with the Air Force. This concept describes the integration and use of Army Space forces at the Joint Force Component Command Space and Global Strike, Joint Force Land Component Command (JFLCC) and Joint Force Air Component Command (JFACC) levels, down to the Army's divisions. Providing Space support in an integrated, joint environment is a complex matter. Our theater Space concept provides guidance on how we'll proactively set the conditions to optimize the joint force's Space capability. The concept provides a concrete way to operate in order to make the best, most efficient use of our limited Space operations resources. The Concept for Army Theater Space Support in Joint Operations was written to fulfill several purposes. The document:

- Describes how Army Space forces support the

joint and land component commander's objectives,

- Describes how Army Space forces link to and operate within the joint Space environment,
- Informs the development of the Joint Forces Component Command (JFCC) Space and Global Strike and JFCC - Integrated Missile Defense concepts.
- Serves as a bridge between current TP 525-3-14 (Space Support to the Objective Force) and the integration of Space in Training and Doctrine Command operating and functional concepts, and;
- Forms a baseline for Space support to Army modularity plans, Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System (JCIDS) efforts, joint Space Theater Concepts under development by Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) and U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM).

Our validation process has been fairly robust. The concepts have been tested in numerous experiments and wargames (Millennium Challenge 02, Unified Quest 03 and 04, Omni Fusion Build 1 and 2, Schriever III) and several tabletop wargames. Additionally, the 1st Space Brigade validated the concepts in recent joint exercises and is developing training, techniques and procedures to support them. Finally, we successfully presented Army Theater Space Concepts to USSTRATCOM, Air Force Space and 14th Air Force.

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field to maximize our return on investment. We have units from 1st Space Brigade and its subordinates providing Space-based products and services via specialized teams such as: non-tactical imagery from the Commercial Exploitation Teams; Space control support and airborne information operations from the Space Control Detachments; theater missile warning and battlespace characterization from the Theater Missile Warning Detachments; and Space force enhancement products and services from the Army Space Support Teams (ARSST). They primarily support Theater Army, joint task force, land component headquarters, special operations and Marine component forces.

To provide that same support down to the tactical warfighter at the Units of Employment (UEX and UEY), as well as, support Units of Action and Future Combat System Units of Action, Space Support Elements (SSE) were developed. Last fall, the Army embedded the first one in the 3rd Infantry Division. It consists of Space operations officers and noncommissioned officers. Embedding SSEs will be duplicated in every division in the next three years as the new modularity concept takes shape across the Army.

In the recently published draft concept, SMDC/ARSTRAT and 1st Space Brigade provide the command and control structure for the worldwide employment of all Army Space forces in support of joint and Army operations. It will develop tailored, deployable elements that are responsible for integrating Army Space forces into theater operations. The 1st Space Brigade will be pushed forward to provide Space support to the JFLCC during conflict and contingency operations. The brigade will provide an element to the component command delegated Space authority (SA) — normally the JFACC headquarters — to facilitate joint, National and Interagency Space support to Army

forces through the apportionment and allocation process.

The SSE is first and foremost a planning agent for the UE commander, providing recommendations, coordinating Space-based products and services, and preparing Space input to UE plans and orders. When the scope of the mission exceeds the capability of the SSE, it will coordinate with the 1st Space Brigade for Army Space force augmentation. This augmentation not only supports the SSE, but also the organizations subordinate to the UE without embedded Space experts.

These two groups, the 1st Space Brigade and the SSEs, rely on each other to create an operational construct that extends Space from the national to the tactical level. The theater concept of operations spells out for the Army and joint warfighters how to employ these two separate, but complementary groups of Space forces.

Details on how these two groups support each other and the warfighting units at various command levels is spelled out in detail in the Concept for Army Theater Space Support in Joint Operations. In the months ahead, Dave Carrithers from the Future Warfare Center and COL Kurt Story, Commander, 1st Space Brigade, will be writing in-depth articles for the next issue of the Army Space Journal and for the fall issue of the ADA magazine. These efforts, crafted to proven veterans and young Space professionals, lay the foundations for the success of ground combat in the future. Our joint warfighting task forces will share the benefits of the Space-based products produced by our lean Space formations. We encourage your involvement and expertise as we forge the future.